

ENF Environmental Notification Form

For Office Use Only
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
 EOE No.: **14135**
 MEPA Analyst: **Briony Angus**
 Phone: 617-626-**1029**

The information requested on this form must be completed to begin MEPA Review in accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act, 301 CMR 11.00.

Project Name: UMASS Amherst Recreation Building		
Street: Commonwealth Avenue		
Municipality: Amherst	Watershed: Connecticut	
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: East-West: 703221 North: 4695957	Latitude: N 42.3893 Longitude: W 72.5311	
Estimated commencement date: Sept. 2007	Estimated completion date: Feb. 2009	
Approximate cost: \$37,000,000	Status of project design: 100 %complete	
Proponent: University of Massachusetts Building Authority		
Street: 225 Franklin Street, 12 th Floor		
Municipality: Boston	State: MA	Zip Code: 02110
Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this ENF May Be Obtained: Brad Saunders		
Firm/Agency: Sasaki Associates, Inc.	Street: 64 Pleasant Street	
Municipality: Watertown	State: MA	Zip Code: 02472
Phone: 617-923-7211	Fax: 617-923-7240	E-mail: bsaunders@sasaki.com

- Does this project meet or exceed a mandatory EIR threshold (see 301 CMR 11.03)?
 Yes No
- Has this project been filed with MEPA before?
 Yes (EOEA No. _____) No
- Has any project on this site been filed with MEPA before?
 Yes (EOEA No. _____) No
- Is this an Expanded ENF (see 301 CMR 11.05(7)) requesting:
- a Single EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.06(8)) Yes No
 - a Special Review Procedure? (see 301 CMR 11.09) Yes No
 - a Waiver of mandatory EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.11) Yes No
 - a Phase I Waiver? (see 301 CMR 11.11) Yes No

Identify any financial assistance or land transfer from an agency of the Commonwealth, including the agency name and the amount of funding or land area (in acres): None

Are you requesting coordinated review with any other federal, state, regional, or local agency?
 Yes (Specify _____) No

List Local or Federal Permits and Approvals: NPDES General Permit for Construction Activities.

Which ENF or EIR review threshold(s) does the project meet or exceed (see 301 CMR 11.03):

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land | <input type="checkbox"/> Rare Species | <input type="checkbox"/> Wetlands, Waterways, & Tidelands |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water | <input type="checkbox"/> Wastewater | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy | <input type="checkbox"/> Air | <input type="checkbox"/> Solid & Hazardous Waste |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ACEC | <input type="checkbox"/> Regulations | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historical & Archaeological Resources |

Summary of Project Size & Environmental Impacts	Existing	Change	Total	State Permits & Approvals
LAND				<input type="checkbox"/> Order of Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Superseding Order of Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Chapter 91 License <input type="checkbox"/> 401 Water Quality Certification <input type="checkbox"/> MHD or MDC Access Permit <input type="checkbox"/> Water Management Act Permit <input type="checkbox"/> New Source Approval <input type="checkbox"/> DEP or MWRA Sewer Connection/Extension Permit <input type="checkbox"/> Other Permits <i>(including Legislative Approvals) – Specify:</i>
Total site acreage	8.6			
New acres of land altered		0.0		
Acres of impervious area	5.6	- 0.4	5.2	
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration		0.0		
Square feet of new other wetland alteration		0.0		
Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways		0.0		
STRUCTURES				
Gross square footage	47,600	+103,400	151,000	
Number of housing units	0	0	0	
Maximum height (in feet)	30 feet	+35	65	
TRANSPORTATION				
Vehicle trips per day	800	+100	900	
Parking spaces	269	- 73	196	
WATER/WASTEWATER				
Gallons/day (GPD) of water use	200	40,425	40,625	
GPD water withdrawal	0	0	0	
GPD wastewater generation/treatment	200	32,300	32,500	
Length of water/sewer mains (in miles)	0	0	0	

CONSERVATION LAND: Will the project involve the conversion of public parkland or other Article 97 public natural resources to any purpose not in accordance with Article 97?

Yes (Specify _____) No

Will it involve the release of any conservation restriction, preservation restriction, agricultural preservation restriction, or watershed preservation restriction?

Yes (Specify _____) No

RARE SPECIES: Does the project site include Estimated Habitat of Rare Species, Vernal Pools, Priority Sites of

Rare Species, or Exemplary Natural Communities?

Yes (Specify _____) No

HISTORICAL /ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES: Does the project site include any structure, site or district listed in the State Register of Historic Place or the inventory of Historic and Archaeological Assets of the Commonwealth?

Yes (Specify: AMH 110, see Project Description.) No

If yes, does the project involve any demolition or destruction of any listed or inventoried historic or archaeological resources?

Yes (Specify: AMH 110, see Project Description.) No

AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN: Is the project in or adjacent to an Area of Critical Environmental Concern?

Yes (Specify _____) No

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The project description should include (a) a description of the project site, (b) a description of both on-site and off-site alternatives and the impacts associated with each alternative, and (c) potential on-site and off-site mitigation measures for each alternative (*You may attach one additional page, if necessary.*)

The project consists of the construction of a ±120,000-square foot recreation center on a site located within the University of Massachusetts Amherst campus, across Commonwealth Avenue from the Mullins Center and adjacent to Grinnell Arena and Dickinson Hall (see Figure 1). The proposed recreation center will be four stories in height and will contain a three-court gymnasium, weight and fitness areas, multipurpose fitness rooms, administration area, and locker rooms. The project also includes new and resurfaced parking areas, the relocation of vehicular drives and pedestrian paths, and the creation of open landscape areas.

The project site currently is occupied by five buildings and associated paved parking and circulation facilities (see Figure 2). Three of the existing buildings are proposed to be removed in order to accommodate the construction of the recreation center (see Figure 3). Two buildings to be removed for the construction of the recreation center are wood-framed, shingle-sided structures with asphalt shingle roofs: one is a gambrel-style barn with a footprint area of approximately 5,700 square feet and the second is a single-story bungalow-style structure with a footprint area of approximately 1,200 square feet. The third building to be removed is a wood and timber-framed, stucco-sided, slate-roofed barn structure with a footprint area of approximately 11,000 square feet. The 11,000-square foot structure is listed in the Inventory of Historic and Archaeological Assets of the Commonwealth as asset number AMH 110 (see Attachment A).

The project site was selected for the siting of the new recreation center as it allowed for the achievement of the following goals and objectives of the university.

- a) Reinforcement of the physical links within the current campus environment (e.g., links between the western athletic fields and the main academic campus).
- b) Creation of visual links between the recreation center and the western athletic fields.
- c) Aesthetic enhancement of a primary campus entry point which had been neglected and relegated to service and maintenance activity use.
- d) Creation of a new student life "destination place" on the campus and a separate identity for the university Recreation Department.
- e) Utilization of existing pedestrian routes (e.g., between the Mullins Center and athletic fields and the campus core).
- f) Minimization of disruption to, or loss of, existing campus facilities.

A number of alternatives to the project site were considered early in the design process. These alternatives included sites which would allow for the siting of the entire recreation center program (i.e., space needs) in a

single location, such as can be achieved at the proposed site, and sites which would require that the program be divided between two or more structures and two or more sites. Alternative sites which could accommodate the entire program in a single location include an area to the north side of Boyden Gym, an area along the west side of Commonwealth Avenue to the west of Boyden Gym, and an addition to the Totman Gym. The use of the area to the north of Boyden Gym and the addition to Totman Gym would result in the loss of existing parking facilities and the use of the area to the west of Commonwealth Avenue and the addition to Totman Gym would result in the loss of existing playfields. Alternatives which would require the splitting of the recreation center program between two or more buildings and sites would be contrary to the goals of establishing a new student life destination place and identity facility for the Recreation Department.